

**ODDS AND ENDS ABOUT POCAHONTAS.**

This county is especially made to form one absolute and independent republic by itself. It is completely hemmed in on every boundary by high mountains, and has within its bounds all sorts of natural resources. It is watered in main by the Greenbrier, and when the waters are fully used the river is permitted to escape by a tortuous passage through Droop Mountain. The Greenbrier is not quite sufficient for the county's needs, so in the extreme western part of the county the headwaters of the Elk spread like the antlers of the animal from which it takes its name, and water a most valuable blue grass country. This river is sent off through never ending woods in a southerly direction.

Nobody ever comes to Pocahontas without crossing a mountain.—Once inside the barrier, a magnificent country is to be seen, second to none in the beauties of nature.—The intelligent and industrious class of hard headed people have claimed from the soil their living, and incident to this the beautiful plantations have come into existence, to give wealth and beauty to the county.

It is owing to the condition of the surrounding country that we are practically cut off from intercourse with West Virginia, and have a direct, though slow, communication with Virginia. On the northern and western boundaries the trees grow so big and thick that they have not yet been tackled by men, and the mountains are high, too. On the south lies the ancient county of Greenbrier, but it, too, is closer kin to the counties of Virginia than to those of her own State.

Now, if we mistake not, this exalted and exclusive position of ours has had a great deal to do with keeping the common, everyday world at a distance, and has left us the lot of choice spirits that are to be found here. The fact is, that when some 6,500 people occupy a county twice as big as the State of Rhode Island, and get used while young to riding forty miles to attend a festive gathering, they become a most wonderfully capable and energetic people, as a rule. A crowded county, where twelve or fifteen miles is the radius covered during a man's life, is to be found not a hundred miles from us in the Valley of Virginia.

The position of our county has also to do with the esteem with which we as a people are regarded by those who never had the pleasure of visiting Pocahontas. Take the young man in Lewisburg, for instance. To one, this county is a place where the principal industry is the manufacture and sending forth of covered wagons. To the other, this county is the place where his sweetheart lives. The difference between the two men is that the first has never been to Pocahontas while the other has.

Propos to the question of what is known of our county by outsiders, is the story told by Col. John T. McGraw to a distinguished audience in the Chamber of Commerce, at Pittsburg. Emperor William, of Germany, was told of Pittsburg, and in locating the place, it was found that the nearest place of importance to Pittsburg, that he had heard of in America, was Marlinton, county seat of Pocahontas, and "center of the two Virginias."

But as we said before, we are best suited to be a country to ourselves. Communication with the outer world is at present a horse-killing business. If our people would only appreciate hearing of that which is none of their business, but which is attracting the attention of the civilized world, a telephone line could be constructed with little cost. In time, too, after

the court-house is completed, a railroad might be built down the river to Ronceverte, and a single man would not have to keep a dozen extra horses. Another wild fancy may well be indulged while we are about it, and that is that of turning the Cheat River into the Greenbrier, and having a stream navigable for steamboats.

But alas! the worst of it all is that you cannot get to talking about this county but what you get stuck on the funeral topic of speedy communication with the rest of the world, and so remarking that Pocahontas has a future before her, we will drop the subject by further remarking that we are in favor of somebody entering an order, somewhere, compelling every land owner on our land books, not a resident of the county, to come into the county and live, within sixty days from the rising of the court, or forfeit their lands to the independent republic of Pocahontas.

**A Bit of Personal Experience With the Strike.**

Mr. F. Hubball, local agent of the Mauley Manufacturing Company at this place, came here direct from New Orleans. While in the Crescent City he reports having seen great quantities of fruit and vegetables for sale, dirt cheap. Outside of the harbor were several steamboats sailing to and fro with hatches up, trying to keep their cargoes of fruit from spoiling. The railroad had refused to receive anything of a perishable nature. Watermelons could be bought for eighteen cents per hundred and bananas at ten cents per bunch. His train was delayed, the switchmen having struck, and at one city the depot policeman and the detective coupled the cars, etc. At Birmingham the firemen struck, and the train was "fired" through to Chattanooga by the master mechanic of the road.

**"AUNT LUANIE."**

Do we not all remember from the days of our childhood some particular friend who seemed a wonderful help and comfort to our mothers? And thus, unconsciously, then, a help to ourselves. This friend may have been a kind elderly relative or non-relative, an old school-companion, or even an humble, faithful servant. It was some one on whom the mother leaned, and from whom she took comfort and encouragement. The friend and the dear mother, too, may long since have gone to the heavenly home; but memory is only the keener and tenderer for that.

I am thinking of such a comforting friend now. In the village where my mother was raised, lived a good woman who seemed to be a little older than anybody else, and who was known and loved by all. "Aunt Luanie" was her general name, and to my infant fancy, "Aunt" formed part of her name, not a title. To be a Christian helper to every one seemed her business, and yet I knew she had her own special cares and duties, and, often have I heard my mother say, many trials and crosses; but "Aunt Luanie" literally smiled over trouble and always found a cheering word for the weary and discouraged.

I see her now as she would enter our house quietly and unexpectedly, with that quaint bonnet of hers, and the bright wrinkled countenance under it, sitting down affectionately by my mother, and lifting the every-day cares with her, and holding soul communion, until it seemed that God had surely sent an angel unawares to cheer and bless.

When we removed to Brooklyn, Mrs. Gordon ("Aunt Luanie") moved to New York City, and her membership of church was in Dr. Burchard's, doubtless, old records hold her name yet, though the saint has entered into the Church of the First-Born, written in heaven.

Says a sister of mine, "I could have been not over three years of age when our mother took me to see 'Aunt Luanie' in New York. Living in upper rooms, the good old lady was at the moment ironing clothes, with her Bible laid on the same table, and reading with interruptions. She spoke of her morning lesson: 'I have been going over the early life of Samuel, the Prophet, how he was called of the Lord

when with Eli; how wonderful the history!"

A student of the Bible, a Christian of prayer, a warm and tender heart, a patient sufferer, and sympathizing friend, a helper to our mother, (and that mother still with us), "Aunt Luanie Gordon" lives gratefully in our memories.—Mrs. A. L. Price.

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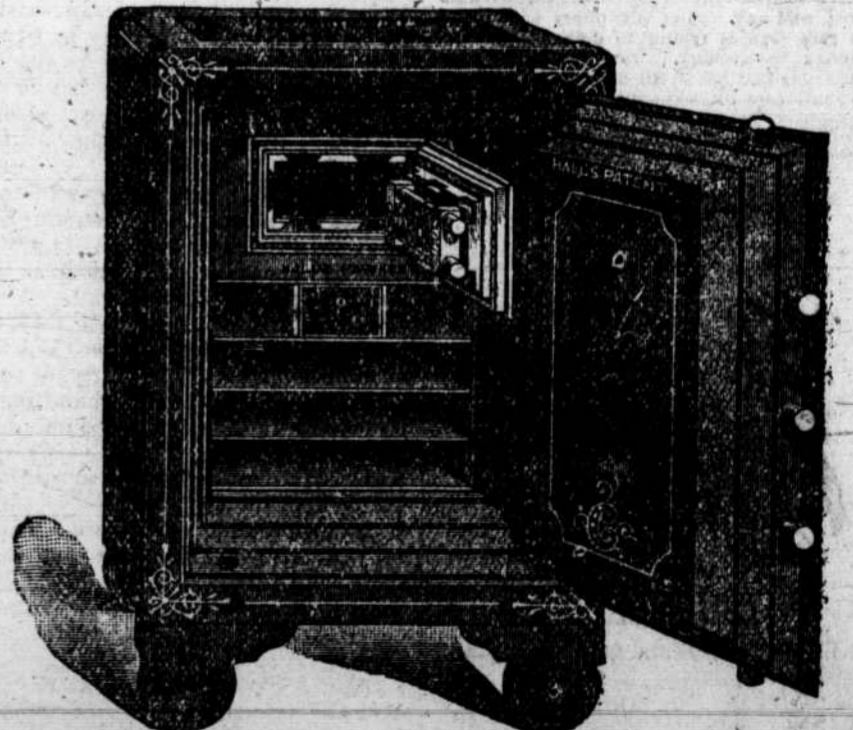
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